

An act to correct uncertainty in the location of the line between the counties of Wilkes and Alleghany was passed in 1939.

Beginning on a locust in the county line and on the South bank of the old State road; runs South fifty degrees West sixty poles to a hickory on the West bank of Roaring Branch, thence South sixty-seven degrees West thirty-two poles to a large white pine; thence South forty-eight degrees West twenty and two-tenths poles to a stake; thence North eighty-seven and one-fourth degrees West twenty-one poles to a Spanish oak, Chatham's corner, in the Wilkes-Alleghany County line.<sup>31</sup>

## ANSON

Anson was formed in 1750 from Bladen. It was named in honor of George, Lord Anson, a celebrated English admiral who circumnavigated the globe. It is in the south central section of the State and is bounded by the state of South Carolina and Union, Stanly, and Richmond counties. Its area is 533 square miles and its population 28,443. From 1755 to 1780 the county seat was called Anson Court House. In 1782 and 1783 laws were passed concerning the courthouse. In the latter year New Town was authorized to be established. In 1787, Newton, the county seat, was changed to Wadesboro. Wadesboro is the county seat.<sup>32</sup>

<sup>31</sup>*Public-Local Laws, 1939, Ch. 464.*

<sup>32</sup>*Colonial Records of North Carolina, V, 1209 (hereafter this will be cited as C. R.); State Records of North Carolina, XI, 607; XIV, 514, 515, 609; XXIII, 343; XXIV, 463, 537, 540, 874, 949 (hereafter this will be cited as S. R.); Manual, 1913, p. 485; Battle, p. 22. The date of the formation of the county has been given as 1748 and 1749 with most of the writers agreeing on 1749. This county was one of the counties whose formation was disallowed by the crown because of the conflicting ideas about what body had the final authority to erect new counties. Edgecombe, Bertie, Onslow, and others came in this category. George Burrington and Gabriel Johnston with their Councils had exercised the authority to erect new counties, and the Lower House had denied them that authority, claiming that it rested with them. This controversy, among other things, caused the disallowances as stated above. The Assembly, however, was to meet March 28, 1749, but the governor prorogued it until May 30. On September 29, 1748, the governor read into the records that "I Gabriel Johnston . . . by virtue of the Power . . . vested in me . . . [do] . . . make, create, constitute and ordain the said Peedee in the province of North Carolina and certain Tracts of Land contiguous to the same late in the County of Bladen, a County by the name of Anson County, and the same is hereby Declared (within the Bounds and Limits hereafter ascribed) a County by itself Separate from and independent of Bladen having distinct Jurisdiction with all such Power and Privileges as any other Counties within this Province have and enjoy: . . ." On September 30, 1748, the governor and council named the justices of the peace and a sheriff for Anson. C. R., IV, 889. In October, 1749, a complaint was laid before the council relative to the lawlessness of Anson County indicating that Anson was functioning as an ordinary county. C. R., IV, 971.*

A bill establishing Anson was introduced in the lower house of the Assembly April 7, 1749; passed the first reading April 8; the second reading with amendments April 10; and the third reading April 11. In the Upper House or Council it was introduced April 7; read the first time and passed April 8; read the second time and passed with amendments April 10; and the Assembly was prorogued April 14, before it came up for the third reading. C. R., IV, 977, 978, 979, 984, 991, 992, 993, 994, 995, 999. The General Assembly met again September 26, 1749. On October 9, 1749, a bill was allowed to be brought in the lower house to erect Anson County. In the Council of October 7, a bill for the same purpose was introduced, read the first time and passed. On October 12, read the second time and passed with amendments, and read the third time on the same day and rejected. C. R., IV, 1002, 1004, 1005, 1013.

The General Assembly met again March 28, 1750. On April 2, 1750, a bill to erect Anson County was read in the Council the first time and passed; April 3, read the second time and passed with amendments; and the record read as follows on April [4]: "In the Lower House read the third time and passed. In this House read and passed. Ordered to be engrossed." C. R., IV, 1054, 1056, 1057. On April 9, 1750, the governor gave his assent to "the Bill to divide the upper part of Bladen County into a county and Parish." C. R., IV, 1063, 1064.

The caption to the printed law establishing the county says the Assembly met March 17, 1749. S. R., XXIII, 342. The Lower House Journal gives the date as March 30, 1749. C. R., IV, 971, 972, 984, 985, 986.